

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Production of Reactors for the Oxidation of Paraffin; Production of Very Pure Aluminum

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Karl Fischer Apparate-und Rohrleitungsbau, at Reinsdorf/Wittenberg, produces reactors for the oxidation of paraffins for two East German plants and one Polish plant. An official of the Deutsches Hydrierwerk Rodleben is reportedly of the opinion that since the desired fatty acid capacity of these plants far exceeds that required for butter substitutes and soaps, this material is for munitions.
2. At the present time (June 1950), the following reactors have been furnished or are planned by the Fischer plant for the following hydrogenation plants:

Location	Reactors	Capacity	Status
Rodleben bei Dessau	8	30 cubic meters	delivered
Lützkendorf	16	50 "	planned
Heydebreck (Poland)	12	50 "	"
3. These reactors are constructed of sheet aluminum, but the tops must be of acid-resistant material. Acid-proof steel is desired for the tops but as it is not available, pure aluminum (99.99%) is used, presenting engineering problems. This aluminum is produced at the Elektrochemisches Kombinat in Bitterfeld* in bars, shipped to Hettstedt for rolling and furnished to the Fischer plant for use. The purity of the aluminum has reportedly been checked at Hettstedt. Because this aluminum has only 1/3 the elasticity and tensile strength of 99.5 aluminum, the sheets have to be rolled to a thickness of 10mm. Each square meter of this 10mm-thick aluminum weighs 27 kg, and the maximum size for each sheet is 3 m². The tops of the reactors (50 m³) are two and one-half meters in diameter and three meters high.
4. The monthly production of this very pure aluminum at the Elektrochemisches Kombinat is now fifteen tons, of which ten go to the Fischer plant and five to the USSR. It had originally been planned that the Fischer plant would receive only five tons and the USSR, ten, but this quantity was not sufficient to meet the plant's requirements. When the plant management requested ten tons of this aluminum per month, the Elektrochemisches Kombinat refused, and the matter was taken to the Soviet Administration in Karlshorst. The latter also objected to the increase, but Krasnovitsky (phonetic spelling), of the main SAG office in Berlin-Weissenhof, obtained the approval of Moscow for the additional allocation.

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